

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Monday, January 6, 2025

Coming to UCLA from the West?



Last Saturday, we posted about some traffic problems you might have coming to UCLA from the east due to the Golden Globes. Today we take note about some subway construction issues that might cause problems if you are coming to UCLA from the west:

LADWP Waterline Installation for New Westwood/VA Hospital Station on City Streets

Summary

Metro contractors will continue to install a new waterline at the Westwood/VA Hospital Station for use during construction and future use as a water service line for the VA Station. Initial activities began in the fall of 2023, and construction is beginning in City right-of-way areas between Barry Av and San Vicente Bl/Federal Av on Wilshire Bl. Some anticipated noise is associated with the work from saw-cutting, trenching and plating the street, jackhammering, and other equipment that will be used. The work to install the new waterline pipes will continue for about one year.



Multiple traffic controls will be implemented for Stage 1. The work requires lane reductions throughout the construction zone along Wilshire Blvd between Barry Ave and Federal Ave/San Vicente Blvd. The traffic control plans will minimize traffic congestion and impact local communities. Stage 10 will be implemented later.

The team will start with Stage 1 for work from 9pm to 6am, Monday to Sunday. **This work is anticipated to begin on January 9, 2025 and continue through January.** There will be multiple restrictions on Wilshire Bl. Please follow the signs.

Stage 1: One lane on Wilshire Bl will be available for commuting between Barry Av and San Vicente Bl. The left turn pocket to northbound San Vicente Bl will be closed. A traffic control officer will be available to assist with traffic.. Bus stops may be impacted during the work on Wilshire Bl between Federal Av/San Vicente Bl and Barry Av. Please follow the temporary restriction signs.

Stage 10: Three eastbound Wilshire Bl lanes will be restricted, and the left turn pocket will be closed. One traffic lane will also be restricted for westbound Wilshire Bl at San Vicente Bl and Federal Av. No southbound San Vicente Bl traffic is available to Wilshire Bl, and a detour will be implemented to Barrington Av to commute around

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- UCSA's Letter Asking UC to Expand Commitment to Vulnerable Populations
- UC President Search Committee Statement
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- Union Letter to UC with Benefits Demands

Remaking the University

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- Why I Walked Out of the MLA for Good--And Why You Should Too (Guest Post) - 1/28/2025
- Highlights 11: Morons of the Master Race - 1/26/2025

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the construction. The west leg crosswalk at Wilshire and Federal Bl/ San Vicente Bl will remain open. Traffic control officers will be present during this work activity.

Notices will be posted and updated online as dates and traffic control stages are confirmed. All driveways will be maintained open unless previously notified. Street parking may be impacted. Please follow the posted traffic signage and street parking restrictions. Please refer to the detour signs for impacted routes and relocated bus stops.

Dates: October 9 through November 2025

Work Hours: Work hours vary depending on the traffic control stage.

Monday through Sunday, 9 pm to 6 am, and Nighttime.

*Hours may vary depending on the traffic control stage.

Wilshire Bl

- Multiple Wilshire Bl lanes will be reduced for eastbound traffic from Westgate Av past San Vicente Av/Federal Av. Some restrictions on westbound traffic along Wilshire Bl beginning east of Federal Av/San Vicente Bl will be necessary.
- Bus stops will be relocated along Wilshire Bl between Federal Av and Stoner Av/Barrington Av for eastbound and westbound traffic.
- Parking will be restricted on the south side of Wilshire Bl between Westgate Av and Federal Av.
- When work is located near Barry Av, northbound access to Wilshire Bl from Barry Av will be closed, and a detour will be implemented.
- Traffic detours will be implemented throughout the work. Please follow all detour signs.
- The northern sidewalk on Wilshire Bl between San Vicente BL and Barry BL will be restricted. During this closure, the bus stop on this corner will be closed and relocated.

Federal Av/San Vicente Bl

- Left and right turn pocket restrictions will be implemented at Wilshire Bl and San Vicente Bl.
- Northbound Federal Avenue restrictions will be implemented from Texas Avenue to Wilshire Boulevard. During the work, right and left-hand turns will also be restricted. Please use the detour signs.
- Parking will be restricted on the eastern side of Federal Av from Wilshire Bl to Texas Bl and on San Vicente Bl from Wilshire Bl to Goshen Bl. Traffic will be detoured.

Source: https://cloud.sfmcc.metro.net/LADWP_Waterline_Installation_WestwoodVa.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: [traffic](#), [UCLA](#)

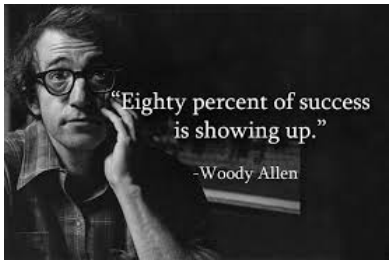
Sunday, January 5, 2025

A is for All-Nighter?

The [NY Times](#) recently featured a professor's lament about grading:

After 20 years of teaching, I thought I'd heard every argument in the book from students who wanted a better grade. But recently, at the end of a weeklong course with a light workload, multiple students had a new complaint: "My grade doesn't reflect the effort I put into this course."

High marks are for excellence, not grit. In the past, students understood that hard work was not sufficient; an A required great work. Yet today, many students expect to be rewarded for the quantity of their effort rather than the quality of their knowledge. In surveys, two-thirds of college students say that "trying hard" should be a factor in their grades, and a third think they should get at least a B just for showing up at (most) classes. This isn't Gen Z's fault. It's the result of a misunderstanding about one of the most popular educational theories.



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More than a generation ago, the psychologist Carol Dweck published groundbreaking experiments that changed how many parents and teachers talk to kids. Praising kids for their abilities undermined their resilience, making them more likely to get discouraged or give up when they encountered setbacks. They developed what came to be known as a fixed mind-set: They thought that success depended on innate talent and that they didn't have the right stuff. To persist and learn in the face of challenges, kids needed to believe that skills are malleable. And the best way to nurture this growth mind-set was to shift from praising intelligence to praising effort.

The idea of lauding persistence quickly made its way into viral articles, best-selling books and popular TED talks. It resonated with the Protestant work ethic and reinforced the American dream that with hard work, anyone could achieve success.

Psychologists have long found that rewarding effort cultivates a strong work ethic and reinforces learning. That's especially important in a world that often favors naturals over strivers — and for students who weren't born into comfort or don't have a record of achievement. (And it's far preferable to the other corrective: participation trophy culture, which celebrates kids for just showing up.) The problem is that we've taken the practice of celebrating industriousness too far. We've gone from commending effort to treating it as an end in itself...

This is what worries me most about valuing perseverance above all else: It can motivate people to stick with bad strategies instead of developing better ones. With students, a textbook example is pulling all-nighters rather than spacing out their studying over a few days. If they don't get an A, they often protest...

The ideal response to a disappointing grade is not to complain that your diligence wasn't rewarded. It's to ask how you could have gotten a better return on your investment. Trying harder isn't always the answer. Sometimes it's working smarter, and other times it's working on something else altogether.

Every teacher should be rooting for students to succeed. In my classes, students are assessed on the quality of their written essays, class participation, group presentations and final papers or exams. I make it clear that my goal is to give as many A's as possible. But they're not granted for effort itself; they're earned through mastery of the material. The true measure of learning is not the time and energy you put in. It's the knowledge and skills you take out.

Full essay at <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/26/opinion/school-grades-a-quantity-quality.html>.

The author is Wharton Professor Adam Grant: <https://mgmt.wharton.upenn.edu/profile/grantad/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [miscellaneous](#)

I Guess This Is the Official Announcement



Source: https://x.com/Julio_frenk.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:     

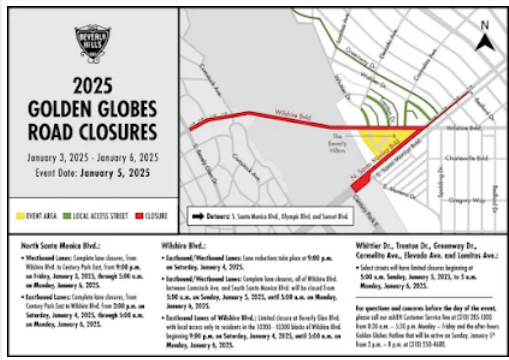
Labels: [UCLA](#)

Saturday, January 4, 2025

Coming to UCLA from the East Next Week?

- ▶ 2010 (431)
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- Contributors
-  California Policy Issues
 -  Toby Higbie
 -  UCLA Faculty Association



Lane closures for Golden Globes:

North Santa Monica Boulevard

- Westbound curb-lane closure west of Wilshire Boulevard through 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8
- Complete sidewalk and street closure on the westbound side from Wilshire Boulevard to Century Park East from 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3 through 5 a.m. Monday, Jan. 6
- Complete sidewalk and street closure on the eastbound side from Century Park East to Wilshire Boulevard from 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4 through 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6

Wilshire Boulevard

- Lane reductions beginning 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4
- Full closure between Comstock Avenue and South Santa Monica Boulevard from 5 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 5 through 5 a.m. Monday, Jan. 6.
- Eastbound lanes will be closed at Beverly Glen Boulevard except for residents from 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4 through 5 a.m. Monday, Jan. 6.

Full info from Patch:

<https://patch.com/california/santamonica/s/j38e4/santa-monica-wilshire-boulevards-will-shut-down-for-golden-globes>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:38 AM No comments:

Labels: traffic, transportation, UCLA

Groping for a new Master Plan

Faithful blog readers know that from time to time we have noted a need for a new Master Plan for Higher Education to replace the old 1960 one (which actually expired in 1975).

The issue gets raised periodically when the legislature comes up with *ad hoc* policies.

Last month we took note of a proposal to combine all three segments of higher ed under one umbrella authority.

Also back in December, two columns appeared in the [LA Times](#). One lamented that back in the day, it wasn't so hard to get into the high-demand UC campuses which now have low acceptance rates. Somebody should do something:



UC President Clark Kerr hands Master Plan to Gov. Pat Brown

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2024-12-23/university-of-california-system-california-state-education-fix>.

Another argued that tuition (although not room and board) should be free, as in the good old days:

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-12-24/column-why-california-should-go-back-to-free-college-tuition-for-everyone>.

Of course, there are some issues in pushing for a system in which everyone gets in and nobody pays. Nevertheless, the fact that these issues keep coming up underlines what we have been saying: There is a need for a Master Plan process combining a large group of stakeholders, not just *ad hoc* bills in the legislature.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: [community colleges](#), [CSU](#), [legislature](#), [Master Plan](#), [politics](#), [tuition](#), [UC](#)

Friday, January 3, 2025

For the record...

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
The Regents of the University of California
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Date: January 2, 2025
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Locations: 990 Highland Drive, Solano Beach
1598 Milton Road, Napa
6085 State Farm Dr., Rohnert Park
400 Q Street, Sacramento
111 Industrial Avenue, Teterboro, New Jersey
Carretera Federal 200, Km 19.5, 63734 Coral del Risco Punta de Mita
Nayarit

Agenda – Closed Session

Sl(X) Action Recommendations for Appointments to Standing Committees for 2025

Closed Session Statute Citation: Nomination of officers and members [Education Code §92032(e)]

The Regents met yesterday behind closed doors as per above. Presumably, the results will be announced at the next open meetings.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 8:19 AM No comments:

Labels: [UC Regents](#)

UCLA's Pearl

Dr. Judea Pearl Surpasses 150,000 Citations, Highlighting His Lasting Impact on AI and the Data Sciences

Dr. Judea Pearl, Professor Emeritus in UCLA's Computer Science Department, has recently achieved a significant milestone—surpassing 150,000 citations on his Google Scholar page. This achievement reflects the lasting influence of Dr. Pearl's contributions to artificial intelligence and the data sciences.



Because they reveal the significance of his contributions beyond the publication numbers into the research community and society at large, citation counts provide a meaningful measure of the real-world impact of academic work. Notably, over one-third of Dr. Pearl's citations have occurred in the past five years. This highlights the continued relevance of his pioneering contributions to causal artificial intelligence, for which garnered/earned him the 2011 Turing Award, widely considered the Nobel Prize of Computer Science.

Pearl's contributions focused on two main areas in artificial intelligence research. First, methods of teaching machines to reason with uncertainty and, second, methods of teaching machines to reason with cause and effect relations, estimate the effect of actions, and generate explanations to surprising results. One reason for the popularity of these contributions is their general applicability across data-sensitive disciplines, including medicine, healthcare, economics, social sciences and more. Pearl's 2019 book "The Book of Why" has been another driving factor. Written for a general audience, it has been translated into 15 languages, including Hebrew and Turkish.

Reflecting on this milestone, Dr. Pearl said, "I think the UCLA community and alumni would be pleased to know that the fundamental ideas behind the current explosion in AI applications were pioneered here at UCLA, and that these ideas are still driving and propelling current progress in AI."

Dr. Pearl's groundbreaking work continues to shape the field of AI, inspiring researchers and practitioners worldwide while cementing UCLA's reputation as a hub of innovation in the data sciences.

Source: <https://www.cs.ucla.edu/dr-judea-pearl-surpasses-150000-citations-highlighting-his-lasting-impact-on-ai-and-the-data-sciences/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:     

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